Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

for a current transaction, reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

during the current transaction, storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items ~~presented for purchase~~ being paid for by a shopper in [[a]] the current transaction, such that the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by [[a]] the shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one possessed items were ~~presented for purchase~~ paid for in the current transaction.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer identifier is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, concluding that the item to which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not paid for in the current transaction.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier;

searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

concluding that one or more selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the searching step fails to locate the customer identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the customer identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when the items ~~are presented for purchase~~ paid for during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation of the searching step.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the

searching and concluding steps omit the remembered items.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

means for reading, for a current transaction, a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

means for storing, during the current transaction, the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items ~~presented for purchase~~ being paid for by a shopper in [[a]] the current transaction, such that the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by [[a]] the shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one possessed items were ~~presented for purchase~~ paid for in the current transaction.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 8, wherein the customer identifier is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

means for subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer

identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, means for concluding that the item to which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not paid for in the current transaction.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

means for reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier; [[and]]

means for searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

means for concluding that one or more selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the means for searching fails to locate the customer identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 12, wherein the customer identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when the items ~~are presented for purchase~~ paid for during the particular purchase transaction, prior to

operation of the means for searching.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code [[means]] for reading, for a current transaction, a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

computer-readable program code [[means]] for storing, during the current transaction, the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items ~~presented for purchase~~ being paid for by a shopper in [[a]] the current transaction, such that the RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by [[a]] the shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one possessed items were paid for ~~presented for purchase~~ in the current transaction.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 15, wherein the customer identifier is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 15, further comprising:

computer-readable program code [[means]] for subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to

determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and

for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, computer-readable program code [[means]] for concluding that the item to which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not paid for in the current transaction.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code [[means]] for reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier; [[and]]

computer-readable program code [[means]] for searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

computer-readable program code [[means]] for concluding that one or more selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the computer-readable program code [[means]] for searching fails to locate the customer identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 18, wherein

the customer identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 18, further comprising computer-readable program code [[means]] for storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when the items ~~are presented for purchase~~ paid for during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation of the computer-readable program code [[means]] for searching.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the means for searching and means for concluding omit the remembered items.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 18, further comprising computer-readable program code [[means]] for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code [[means]] for searching and computer-readable program code [[means]] for concluding omit the remembered items.